WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.　　A method for initiating a session in a store and forward messaging system, said method comprising:

receiving a session connection request from a guest of the store and forward messaging system;

determining capability information of a device used by the guest to connect to the store and forward messaging system;

determining a subscriber of the store and forward messaging system for whom the guest wishes to deposit a message;

retrieving capability information of a device used by the subscriber of the store and forward messaging system for whom the guest wishes to deposit a message; and

comparing the capability information of the device used by the guest to the capability information of the device used by the subscriber, wherein the capability information of the device used by the guest is compared to the capability information of the device used by the subscriber prior to the guest transmitting the message to the store and forward messaging system.

2.　　A method for initiating a session according to claim 1,

wherein, if at least a portion of the capability information of the device used by the guest matches a portion of the capability information of the device used by the subscriber, the portion of the capability information that matches is presented to the guest.

3.　　A method for initiating a session according to claim 2,

wherein, if at least a portion of the capability information of the device used by the guest does not match at least a portion of the capability information of the device used by the subscriber, a default capability information is presented to the guest.

4. A method for initiating a session according to claim 2, wherein the guest transmits the message to the store and forward system using at least the portion of capability information that matches.

5. A method for initiating a session according to claim 3, wherein the capability information comprises at least one of the following: a video codec, a rate of video codec, an audio codec, a rate of audio codec, a screen size of the device used by the guest or subscriber, and colors supported by the device used by the guest or subscriber

6. A method for initiating a session according to claim 1,

wherein, if at least a portion of the capability information of the device used by the guest does not match at least a portion of the capability information of the device used by the subscriber, a default capability information is presented to the guest.

7. A method for initiating a session according to claim 1, wherein the capability information comprises at least one of the following: a video codec, a rate of video codec, an audio codec, a rate of audio codec, a screen size of the device used by the guest or subscriber, and colors supported by the device used by the guest or subscriber.

8. A method for initiating a session in a store and forward messaging system, said method comprising:

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receiving a session connection request from a subscriber of the store and forward messaging system;

determining capability information of a device used by the subscriber to connect to the store and forward messaging system;

comparing the determined capability information of the device used by the subscriber to a stored device capability information of the subscriber in order to determine whether capability information has changed.

9.   A method for initiating a session according to claim 8,

wherein, if it is determined that the capability information has changed, or it is the first time the subscriber has called into the store and forward messaging system, or that the capability information of the device used by the subscriber was initialized, then the stored device capability information of the subscriber is replaced by the determined capability information of the device used by the subscriber to connect to the store and forward messaging system.

10.   A method for initiating a session according to claim 9, wherein the capability information comprises at least one of the following: a video codec, a rate of video codec, an audio codec, a rate of audio codec, a screen size of the device used by the guest or subscriber, and colors supported by the device used by the guest or subscriber.

11.   A store and forward messaging system comprising:

a receiving unit which receives a session connection request from a guest of the store and forward messaging system;

a server coupled to the receiving unit, wherein the server contains an application; and

a data storage unit coupled to the server, wherein the data storage unit stores

capability information of a device used by a subscriber of the store and forward messaging

system,

wherein the application determines the subscriber for whom the guest wishes to

deposit a message and compares capability information of a device used by the guest to

connect to the store and forward messaging system with the capability information stored in

the data storage unit regarding the device of the subscriber for whom the guest wishes to

deposit a message, and

wherein the application compares the capability information of the device used by the

guest with the capability information stored in the data storage unit prior to the guest

transmitting the message to the store and forward messaging system.

12.   A store and forward messaging system according to claim 11,

wherein, if at least a portion of the capability information of the device used by the

guest matches a portion of the capability information stored in the data storage unit regarding

the device of the subscriber for whom the guest wishes to deposit a message, the portion of

the capability information that matches is presented to the guest.

13.   A store and forward messaging system according to claim 12,

wherein, if at least a portion of the capability information of the device used by the

guest does not match at least a portion of the capability information stored in the data storage

unit regarding the device of the subscriber for whom the guest wishes to deposit a message, a

default capability information is presented to the guest.

14. A store and forward messaging system according to claim 12, wherein the guest transmits the message to the store and forward system using at least the portion of capability information that matches.

15. A store and forward messaging system according to claim 13, wherein the capability information comprises at least one of the following: a video codec, a rate of video codec, an audio codec, a rate of audio codec, a screen size of the device used by the guest or subscriber, and colors supported by the device used by the guest or subscriber.

16. A store and forward messaging system according to claim 11,

wherein, if at least a portion of the capability information of the device used by the guest does not match at least a portion of capability information stored in the data storage unit regarding the device of the subscriber for whom the guest wishes to deposit a message, a default capability information is presented to the guest.

17. A store and forward messaging system according to claim 11, wherein the capability information comprises at least one of the following: a video codec, a rate of video codec, an audio codec, a rate of audio codec, a screen size of the device used by the guest or subscriber, and colors supported by the device used by the guest or subscriber.

18. A store and forward messaging system according to claim 11, further comprising:

a transcoding unit that is able to convert a message deposited by the guest to a format supported by the device used by the subscriber if at least a portion of the capability information of the device used by the guest does not match at least a portion of the capability

information stored in the data storage unit regarding the device of the subscriber for whom the guest wishes to deposit a message.

19. A store and forward messaging system according to claim 11, wherein the subscriber may maintain multiple accounts on the store and forward system, wherein each of the subscriber's accounts includes a different set of capability information.

20. A store and forward messaging system comprising:

a receiving unit which receives a session connection request from a subscriber of the store and forward messaging system;

a server coupled to the receiving unit, wherein the server contains an application; and

a data storage unit coupled to the server, wherein the data storage unit stores capability information of a device previously used by the subscriber,

wherein the application determines capability information of a device used by the subscriber to connect to the store and forward messaging system to the capability information stored in the data storage unit regarding the device previously used by the subscriber in order to determine whether capability information has changed.

21. A store and forward messaging system according to claim 20, wherein, if it is determined that the capability information has changed, the capability information stored in the data storage unit is replaced with the capability information of the device used by the subscriber to connect to the store and forward messaging system.

22. A store and forward messaging system according to claim 21, wherein the capability information comprises at least one of the following: a video codec, a rate of video

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codec, an audio codec, a rate of audio codec, a screen size of the device used by the guest or

subscriber, and colors supported by the device used by the guest or subscriber.